

Message Text

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ACTION DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 ORM-02 AID-05 SP-02 PM-04 SS-15

L-03 EB-07 IO-11 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SCS-03 SCA-01

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R 151940Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9320

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, PFOR, PINS, PINT, PORO, EAID, EFIN, PE

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS: 1976 REPORTING REQUIREMENT

REF: STATE 045319

1. OUR CLASSIFIED AIRGRAM A-42 WILL BE FORWARDED IN THE NEXT CLASSIFIED POUCH, MARCH 17. EXCERPTS FROM AIRGRAM FOLLOW.

2. THE PERUVIAN REVOLUTION HAS CARRIED OUT SOCIAL REFORMS TOWARD A MORE HUMANE AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETY WHICH ARE IN THE SPIRIT OF BOTH THE UN CHARTER AND THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. THE PERUVIAN EXPERIMENT IN GENERAL HAS BEEN SUPPORTED AND PRAISED BY THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN PERU.

3. NO EVIDENCE HAS COME TO THE EMBASSY'S ATTENTION THAT THERE IS ANY PATTERN OF INSTITUTIONALIZED AND OFFICIALLY CONDONED TORTURE OR CRUEL, INHUMAN, OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OF PRISONERS. EMBASSY'S INVOLVEMENT WITH THIS QUESTION IS, OF COURSE, PRIMARILY IN TERMS OF THOSE U.S. CITIZENS CAUGHT UP, USUALLY FOR REASON OF NARCOTICS CHARGES, IN PERUVIAN JUSTICE. ON THE RARE OCCASION WHEN U.S. CITIZENS HAVE ALLEGED IMPROPER POLICE PROCEDURES, THE PERUVIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE INVESTIGATED PROMPTLY AND, ON OCCASION, WHEN WARRANTED, HAVE DISCIPLINED

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THE OFFICIALS INVOLVED. THERE HAS BEEN ONE INSTANCE OF THIS IN

THE PAST YEAR. POLICE TECHNIQUES AND PRISON CONDITIONS IN PERU ARE IN THE LATIN TRADITION AND ARE IN SOME ASPECTS MORE INFORMAL AND HUMANE THAN U.S. MODELS AND IN OTHER REGARDS MORE CRUDE AND INTOLERANT.

4. THE MAJOR BLACK MARK AGAINST THE SEVEN-YEAR OLD REVOLUTIONARY REGIME HAS BEEN ITS OCCASIONAL USE OF ARBITRARY ARREST, DETENTION, AND EXILE IN DEALING WITH POLITICAL OPPONENTS, USUALLY JOURNALISTS, FORMER POLITICIANS, AND FAR LEFT LABOR LEADERS. THERE HAVE BEEN IN ALL ABOUT 100 OR SO PERUVIANS AFFECTED BY THESE MEASURES OVER THE YEARS AND PRESENTLY WE BELIEVE THERE ARE WELL UNDER A DOZEN DETAINED WITHOUT BEING CHARGED. A GENERAL AMNESTY BY THE MORALES BERMUDEZ ADMINISTRATION HAS PERMITTED ALMOST ALL POLITICAL EXILES FREEDOM TO RETURN TO PERU. THE MORALES BERMUDEZ GOVERNMENT HAS SO FAR AVOIDED THE PRACTICE USED BY THE PRECDING VELASCO REGIME OF FORCING SOME OF ITS OPPONENTS TO GO INTO EXILE.

5. THE PERUVIAN EXPERIMENT HAS ABANDONED WHAT ARE USUALLY CONSIDERED T BE SEVERAL BASIC COMPONENTS OF DEMOCRATIC MODELS, MOST NOTABLY PRIVATELY-OWNED DAILY NEWSPAPERS AND POLITICAL ELECTIONS. GOP HAS NATIONALIZED THE ONCE PRIVATELY-OWNED MEDIA, AND SUSPENDED ALL ELECTIONS, AT LEAST UNTIL THE REVOLUTION COMPLETES ITS "POLITICAL PROGRAM". THE OFFICIAL INTENTIONS TOWARD POLITICAL REFORM HAVE SOME MERIT, BUT IT REMAINS AT ISSUE WHETHER THE PERUVIAN EXPERIMENT WILL FINALLY INCLUDE GREATER CIVILIAN PARTICIPATION AND OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS.
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